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A computer system comprising:

a storage means for storing data relating to first and second sets of graphical user interface objects;

a graphical user interface for selectively displaying one of said sets of graphical user interface objects; and

a selection means for switching the display from one set of interface objects to another set of interface objects, whereby the user interface displays interface objects using one of the sets of graphical user interface objects, said selection means including:

a control layer having a pattern look-up table with indexed entries containing data related to patterns and colors used to create interface objects; and

a command means for commanding the control layer to draw a pattern on the interface referring to at least one of the indexed entries in the pattern look-up table, wherein individual appearances of the first set of graphical interface objects are collectively associated with a first common theme and each of the second set of graphical interface objects having the same function as [correspond in function to] an associated interface object in said first set, but whose individual appearances are collectively associated with a second common theme.

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims are respectfully requested. Claims 15-29 are currently pending.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for granting and hosting the personal interview on October 4, 2000. Applicants further note with appreciation the agreement that has been reached as prescribed in the Interview Summary.

Entry of the foregoing amendments is appropriate because these amendments further clarify the feature that the functions of the first and second set of graphical interface objects are the same. These features were previously considered. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments do not raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or searching. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that these

amendments place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth below.

Claims 15-29 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-5 of U.S. Patent No. 5,963,206. Applicants submit herewith a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321 to overcome the rejection. Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of this judicially created double patenting rejection are respectfully requested.

Claims 15-29 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Shrader et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,900,874). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Prior to discussing this ground of rejection, a brief summary of Applicant's novel methods and systems for providing flexible customization of graphical user interfaces will be described in order to highlight some of the advantageous characteristics thereof.

According to exemplary embodiments of the present invention, an improved visual appearance can be provided by providing an appearance management layer that gives a user the ability to customize the appearance and behavior of the desktop. Themes can be created which include sets of desktop graphical objects that are designed to project an overall impression to the area. The user can switch between themes to change this overall impression. The foregoing amendments even better define the exemplary embodiments of the present invention.

For example, claim 15, among other features, recites:

"...a first portion having stored therein data relating to a first set of graphical user interface objects whose individual appearances are collectively associated with a first common theme;

a second portion having stored therein data relating to a second set of graphical user interface objects each of which having the same function as an associated interface object in said first set, but whose individual appearances are collectively associated with a second common theme..."

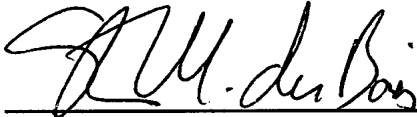
In the Office Action, the Examiner correctly acknowledges that *Shrader et al.* assigns different functions to the icons and the transformed icons. *Shrader et al.* teaches a method for changing information associated with an icon from one state to another. See

Column 2, lines 47-63. Thus, *Shrader et al.* fails to teach two sets of user interface objects having the same functions, as set forth, among other features, in Applicants' claimed combinations. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that *Shrader et al.* could not have rendered the claimed invention unpatentable. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

All of the objections and rejections raised in the Office Action have been addressed. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of the same is earnestly solicited. Should the examiner have any questions regarding this response or the application in general, he is urged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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